

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: April 2, 2003

Contact: Reid Hartzoge
Phone: (919) 733-5612

N.C. ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ENDORSE EASLEY'S BUDGET REFORMS

RALEIGH —The North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) has announced its support for Gov. Mike Easley's budget reform proposals and his 2003-04 budget framework.

NCASA, which represents approximately 6,000 superintendents, principals and other school administrators across the state, support Easley's proposals specifically his proposal to reduce the class size for second grade in the 2003-2004 school year and for third grade in 2004-2005. They recommend the General Assembly adopt a state budget that makes public education initiatives top priority.

"We believe the Governor has prepared a realistic state budget that maintains the state's focus on and commitment to protecting and enhancing public education opportunities for North Carolina's students," Jan Crotts, executive director of NCASA said. "We urge the General Assembly to follow the Governor's lead and adopt a state budget that makes public education initiatives a top priority."

"I am pleased to have the support of our school administrators, in addition to that of our teachers," said Easley. "It is critical that we maintain our investments in education to ensure that our students graduate prepared to compete in a global economy. We are one of a handful of states that are making real progress in education. Even in tough economic times, we have increased our investments in our public schools, while other agencies have had their budgets cut by as much as 15 percent."

In addition to NCASA's endorsement, The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry (NCCBI), and the state's chamber of commerce have announced support for the Governor's budget proposals.

The NCAE asked the legislature to pass the Governor's 2003-04 budget framework by June 30, eliminate the sunset on the half-cent sales tax that is due to expire on June 30, 2003, and reiterated their support of a lottery with the proceeds going to supplement, not supplant, public education funding.

The NCCBI Executive Committee announced its support for Easley's proposals to cap state spending growth, to limit the length of legislative sessions, and to enact a line-item veto. NCCBI also supports the level of cuts recommended in the Governor's 2003-05 budget proposal and will not oppose the proposed delay in scheduled tax cuts.

####